

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-07

INFO OCT-01 SS-05 ISO-00 /013 R

66607

DRAFTED BY: NEA/RA:EAPADELFORD

APPROVED BY: NEA/RA:TGGRANT

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R 021519Z JUL 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO CMDR-TACOM AMC-PM-M60TP WARREN MICHIGAN

S E C R E T STATE 156127

LIMDIS

FOL REPEAT OF RABAT 3138 TO SECSTATE SECDEF USCINCUER DA
CDR AMC ALEX VA, CDR USAARM FT KNOX KY, CDR TRADOC FT MONROE,
CDR ANNISTON AAMY DEPOT, CDR USAIMA FT BRAGG, SECDEF
ASD: ISA JUN 30

QTE:

S E C R E T RABAT 3138SECDEF FOR DEPSECDEF PARTY

SECSTATE ALSO FOR IGA

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR MASS MO

SUBJ: MILITARY MODERNIZATION PROGRAM (U)

REF: RABAT 3120 (NOTAL)

THE SERVICEABILITY AND POTENTIAL COMBAT EFFECTIVENESS OF THE 26
M48A3 TANKS PROVIDED TO GOM HAS BECOME A MATTER OF SPECIFIC
CONCERN TO THE KING. IT CAN BE EXPECTED THAT THIS WILL BE A
MATTER OF PARTICULAR INTEREST RAISED WITH DEPSECDEF BY HRM DURING
HIS PENDING VISIT TO MOROCCO. BASED UPON THE RECENT VISIT TO THE
UNITED STATES BY KEY GOM/RMA OFFICIALS AND THE PERSONAL CONCERN OF
HRM EXPRESSED TO ME, I ANTICIPATE THAT THE FOLLOWING ISSUES MAY BE
DISCUSSED: UPGRADING OF M48A3 TO M48A5 TANKS BY IN-COUNTRY CON-

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VERSION OF M48A3 TANKS ALREADY DELIVERED OR IN PROCESS OF

DELIVERY; ACCELERATION OF EQUIPMENT DELIVERIES TO PERMIT EXPEDITED EQUIPPING AND FIELDING OF "US MODERNIZED" BATTALIONS; PROVISION OF A BALANCED STOCK OF 90MM TANK GUN AMMUNITION PENDING CONVERSION OF TANKS FROM M48A3 TO A5 AND ACCELERATED DELIVERY OF SPECIAL TOOLS REQUIRED FOR THE MAINTENANCE OF M48A3/A5 TANKS. IT WOULD BE MOST USEFUL IF THE FOLLOWING ACTIONS COULD BE TAKEN:

A. M48A3 TO M48A5 CONVERSION: GOM/RMA IS DEEPLY CONCERNED ABOUT THE COMBAT EFFECTIVENESS OF THE 90MM TANK GUN. THERE HAVE BEEN IMPLIED ANSWERS GIVEN TO GOM THAT THE 54 M48A3 TANKS BEING PROVIDED COULD BE CONVERTED TO M48A5 TANKS AT SOME LATER DATE. PROPOSAL TO GOM OF THE DEFINITE PROGRAM TO CONVERT THE M48A3 TANKS TO M48A5 TANKS ON SITE IN MOROCCO IF POSSIBLE IN MID CY 1976 WOULD BE A VERY USEFUL AND APPRECIATED EXPRESSION OF CONTINUING USG CONCERN FOR THE RMA MODERNIZATION PARTICULARLY IN VIEW OF THE LONG LEAD TIMES FOR WEAPONS DELIVERY. THE CHIEF, TRAINING SURVEY TEAM BELIEVES THAT THERE MAY BE SUFFICIENT TECHNICAL CAPABILITY IN FAR DEPOT MAINTENANCE TO SUPPORT TIMELY IN-COUNTRY CONVERSION BY A TAT FROM ANNISTON ARMY DEPOT. HOWEVER, HE BELIEVES THAT A TECHNICAL ASSESSMENT BY QUALIFIED PRODUCTION SPECIALISTS IS REQUIRED TO ENSURE THAT THIS IS TECHNICALLY FEASIBLE ONCE THE REQUIRED FMS PRIORITY IS GIVEN TO THE PROJECT. REQUEST THAT A TWO-MAN ASSESSMENT TEAM (TURRET/FIRE CONTROL AND POWER TRAIN EXPERTISE) FROM ANNISTON DEPOT BE PROVIDED TO WORK UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE TRAINING SURVEY TEAM DURING THE PERIOD 3-8 JULY 1975. THEIR MISSION WOULD BE TO EVALUATE THE TECHNICAL CAPABILITY OF FAR TO SUPPORT AN M48A3 TO M48A5 ARMY MATERIEL COMMAND CONVERSION TEAM. A SECONDARY MISSION WOULD BE TO ASSESS THE CURRENT CONDITION OF THE 26 M48A3 TANKS PRESENTLY PLACED IN STORAGE PENDING ISSUE OF THE FULL REGIMENTAL SET OF EQUIPMENT. THE TANK SUSPENSION SYSTEMS, MAIN GUN ARMAMENTS AND FIRE CONTROL HAVE NOT BEEN EXERCISED FOR OVER SIX MONTHS. THE REQUESTED TEAM WOULD BE EXPECTED TO DEVELOP A SPECIFIC ADMINISTRATIVE STORAGE PROGRAM AS WELL AS ESTIMATE ADDITIONAL SPARE PARTS REQUIREMENT WHICH WILL BE REQUIRED WHEN THE TANKS ARE PLACED IN OPERATION DUE TO INADEQUATE ADMINISTRATIVE STORAGE PROCEDURES IN THE RECENT PAST.

B. EXPEDITED FIELDING OF US EQUIPPED BATTALION: GOM/FAR DOES NOT INTEND TO PLACE THE US EQUIPMENT IN FIELD OPERATION
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UNTIL COMPLETE BATTALION-SIZE, TACTICALLY AND LOGISTICALLY VIABLE UNITS CAN BE FORMED. THEY WISH TO RE-EQUIP EXISTING MOTORIZED INFANTRY AND TANK BATTALIONS AS COMPLETE BATTALION SETS OF EQUIPMENT BECOME AVAILABLE. CONSIDERING THE CURRENT LOW LEVEL OF LOGISTICAL SUPPORT CAPABILITY AND THE ANTICIPATED LONG TRAINING PERIODS WHICH WILL BE NECESSARY PRIOR TO SUCCESSFUL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MODERNIZATION PROGRAM, IT WOULD BE EXTREMELY USEFUL TO PROVIDE THE ENVELOPE OF EQUIPMENT FOR ONE

TANK BATTALION EARLY IN THE MODERNIZATION PROGRAM. THIS WOULD BE A TIMELY, VISIBLE PRODUCT OF THE PROGRAM FOR GOM, BUT OF EVEN GREATER IMPORTANCE TO THE OVERALL PROGRAM, THE BATTALION COULD BE A "TRAINING TEST BED" HOPEFULLY BASED AT THE ARMOR SCHOOL AT SIDI SLIMANE AND USED TO DEMONSTRATE TO GOM/RMA THE ADMINISTRATIVE AND LOGISTICAL TRAINING AND SUPPORT INFRASTRUCTURE WHICH WILL BE REQUIRED FOR SUCCESSFUL ASSIMILATION OF THE ENTIRE MODERNIZATION PACKAGE. IN SUM, ANTICIPATED RMA PROBLEMS IN FIELDING ONE BATTALION WITH ITS ANCILLARY SUPPORT PROBLEMS WILL PROVIDE AMEMB/MUSLO WITH POINTED AND PRACTICAL EXAMPLES OF PERFORMANCE STANDARDS WHICH MUST BE ATTAINED BEFORE GOM/RMA IS READY TO RECEIVE THE REMAINING EQUIPMENT. IT WOULD BE MOST HELPFUL IF ACCELERATED EQUIPPING OF ONE BATTALION COULD BE OFFERED DURING THE DEPSECDEF VISIT ON 10 JULY. EQUIPMENT REQUIRED WOULD BE DELIVERY OF THE REMAINING 28 M48A3 TANKS DURING CY 1975, AND ACCELERATED DELIVERY OF 5 M577A1 COMMAND POST VEHICLES AND 3 M88A1 HEAVY TANK RECOVERY VEHICLES (M88A1 PREFERRED, M88 COULD BE FEASIBLE SUBSTITUTE TO OFFER) FOR DELIVERY IN LATER CY 1975.

C. PROVISION OF BALANCED STOCKS OF 90MM TANK GUN AMMUNITION PENDING M48A3 TO M48A5 CONVERSION: FMS CASE UHD NOT YET SIGNED BY GOM PROVIDES 1512 ROUNDS OF HEAT (T) M431 SERVICE AMMUNITION. THIS IS THE ONLY 90MM AMMUNITION PRESENTLY IN THE RMA PROGRAM. THIS IS A SERIOUS CAPABILITY IMBALANCE CREATING A WEAKNESS WHICH MAY BE RAISED BY GOM WITH DEPSECDEF. CONSIDERATION SHOULD BE GIVEN TO PERMITTING GOM TO PURCHASE LOWER COST TRAINING AMMUNITION AND A COMBAT EFFECTIVE KINETIC ROUND - HVAP-T. RECOMMEND THAT MUSLO BE AUTHORIZED TO ADVISE RMA THAT AN APPROPRIATE 90MM AMMUNITION MIX WOULD BE APPROXIMATELY 30 PERCENT TPT, 30 PERCENT HEAT, 30 PERCENT HVAP-T, AND 10 PERCENT WP. REQUEST ESTIMATED DELIVERY LEAD TIME DATA FOR TPT, HVAP-T AND WP BE PROVIDED AMEMB/MUSLO PRIOR TO 10 JUL 75.

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D. ACCELERATED DELIVERY OF SPECIAL TOOLS: CASE UGJ DATED 16 JAN 75 WITH FUNDS DEPOSITED 28 MAY 75 PRESENTLY INDICATES 20 MONTHS LEAD TIME FOR DELIVERY OF TOOL SET OPERATIONAL MAINTENANCE COMMON #2 NSN 4910-00-754-0650, 19 MONTHS FOR DELIVERY OF TOOL SET SUPPLEMENT #2 NSN 4940-00-754-0743, AND 18 MONTHS FOR DELIVERY OF SPECIAL SET B NSN 5180-00-674-6823. THESE ARE EXCESSIVELY LONG LEAD TIMES. SPECIAL TOOLS ARE ESSENTIAL IF COMPETENT ORGANIZATIONAL MAINTENANCE IS TO BE PERFORMED ON THE M48A3 TANKS IN COUNTRY. FOR EXAMPLE, RMA IS FULLY PREPARED TO REPAIR THE DAMAGED FINAL DRIVE ON ONE TANK BUT THEY ARE JUSTIFIABLY HESITANT TO MANUFACTURE THEIR OWN SPECIAL TOOLS. CASE UGJ SHOULD BE EXPEDITED TO PERMIT DELIVERY WITHIN THE NEXT 30 TO 60 DAYS SO THAT RMA CAN COMMENCE MAINTENANCE ON TANKS ALREADY IN COUNTRY. SHIPMENT OF COMPLEX EQUIPMENT OF WHICH WE ARE

JUSTIFIABLY PROUD IS DISCREDITED WHEN WE DO NOT PROVIDE
SIMULTANEOUSLY THE PUBLICATIONS AND TOOLS REQUIRED TO MAINTAIN
THE EQUIPMENT. SIMILAR REVIEW OF THE COMPATIBILITY OF ALL MAJOR
EQUIPMENT CASES WILL BE UNDERTAKEN BY MUSLO AS A MATTER OF
HIGHEST PRIORITY. CHIEF, TRAINING SURVEY TEAM HAS EXAMINED THE
M48A3 CASE IN DETAIL ON THE GROUND TO ASSESS THE CURRENT LEVEL
OF LOGISTICAL TRAINING IN RMA. HE INFORMS ME THAT WHILE THERE

HAVE BEEN ADMINISTRATIVE OR MANAGEMENT ERRORS
COMMITTED BY RMA, ERRORS HAVE ALSO BEEN COMMITTED BY
USG - SOME OF WHICH HAVE NOT YET BEEN RAISED OR PERCEIVED BY
RMA. MY CONCERN THAT WE IMPLEMENT THE FOUR RECOMMENDATIONS
PROPOSED ABOVE IS STIMULATED IN LARGE MEASURE BY A DESIRE TO
CORRECT THE PROBLEMS WHICH HAVE MARRED THE EXPEDITED TWKK
DELIVERY EFFORT, THE FIRST HIGH VISIBILITY MANIFESTATION OF
OUR SIZEABLE MODERNIZATION PROGRAM.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY ASSISTANCE, MILITARY CAPABILITIES, TANKS (COMBAT VEHICLES)
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 JUL 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: greeneet
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE156127
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: NEA/RA:EAPADELFORD
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750230-0151
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750790/aaaaddcw.tel
Line Count: 186
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN NEA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: 75 RABAT 3120
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: greeneet
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 AUG 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <18 AUG 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <03 DEC 2003 by greeneet>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MILITARY MODERNIZATION PROGRAM (U)
TAGS: PFOR, MASS, US, MO
To: CMDR-TACOM AMC-PM-M60TP WARREN MICH
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006